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E.O. 12958: DECL: 01/29/2017
TAGS: [MARR](#) [MOPS](#) [PREL](#) [PARM](#) [NATO](#) [PINR](#) [US](#) [UP](#)
SUBJECT: UKRAINE: MANPADS ACQUISITION FOR COUNTERMEASURES
DEVELOPMENT

REF: A. KYIV 163 (NOTAL)
[1](#)B. STATE 5539 (NOTAL)

Classified By: Political Counselor Kent Logsdon for reasons 1.4(b,c,d)

[1](#)1. (S) On January 29, Ambassador, accompanied by DATT and poloff, passed ref A non-paper to Defense Minister Anatoliy Hrytsenko. Hrytsenko said he was frankly relieved the U.S. had elected to pursue an approach that involved some level of compensation to the Ukrainian government to transfer MANPADS for countermeasures development. The Ukrainian government had two well-worn paths for disposal of MANPADS missiles -- destruction and sale. Transfer of MANPADS missiles at no cost had no precedent. If he had the authority to transfer MANPADS missiles gratis to the U.S. government, Hrytsenko said he would do so immediately. Since he did not, such a transfer would require a laborious bureaucratic process requiring authorization of numerous other Ukrainian ministries and agencies. He could foresee a situation in which the Ministry of Defense might obtain half the approvals required, and then have to start over again because of a change in government.

[1](#)2. (S) Hrytsenko said that U.S. officials should now contact Ukrspetsexport (USE) Director General Sergiy Bondarchuk or other USE representatives to work out the practical details of the MANPADS missile transfer. He would, however, also contact Bondarchuk to stress that this should not be considered a commercial transaction, but that the U.S. offer was more of a symbolic price. Hrytsenko noted that Ukraine was also benefiting from the substantial additional contribution that the U.S. was making to the NATO PfP Trust Fund for destruction of large-caliber munitions.

[1](#)3. (U) Visit Embassy Kyiv's classified website:
www.state.gov/p/eur/kyiv.
Taylor